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EXAMINER	
YEN, SYLING	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2166	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/671,408	ZYBURA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	SYLING YEN	2166	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *12 September 2008*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-11 and 13-29* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-11 and 13-29* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the communication filed on September 12, 2008. Claims 1-5, 13, 21-22 and 26-29 have been amended. Claims 12 and 30-33 have been cancelled. Claims 1-11 and 13-29 are pending.

2. Applicants' arguments filed September 12, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive. Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from previous office actions are hereby withdrawn. The following rejections and/or objections are either reiterated or newly applied. They constitute the complete set presently being applied to the instant application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

5. With respect to claim 1,

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the one external namespace" in line 9. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

6. With respect to claims 2-7,

Claims 2-7 are rejected because they depend on the rejected claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

7. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

> Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

8. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim 21 is directed to instructions stored on a medium. The bodies of the claims recite only instructions and the instructions appear to be not executed by at least one computer processor for performing the steps cited in the claims. Merely claiming non-functional descriptive material, i.e., abstract ideas, stored on a medium, in a computer, or on an electromagnetic carrier signal, does not make it statutory.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9 The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation

under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

11. Claims 1-7, 9-19 and 21-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious by Thatcher et al (U.S. Patent 6,061,743 hereinafter, "Thatcher") in view of Fontana et al (U.S. Patent 6,611,847 B1 hereinafter, "Fontana").

12. With respect to claim 1,

Thatcher discloses **a computer-executable method, comprising:**

receiving an indication of a change to a reference (Thatcher col. 11 lines 6-37 e.g. After any children in the host namespace 51 are added to the list, the method proceeds to step 88 where a getExtensions call is made to read the registry 58. The extensions table of the registry 58 is searched for the target 51A) **in a first external object** (Thatcher col. 11 lines 6-37 e.g. the target 51A is a container object within the host namespace 51) **in a first namespace** (Thatcher col. 11 lines 6-37 e.g. the host namespace 51), **a second external object** (Thatcher col. 11 lines 6-37 e.g. in step 87 those children are added to the list. Specifically, the getChildren API 53 returns JAVA objects representing the children. For each JAVA object, the getChildren API 53 returns the actual name of the instance of the JAVA object, an identifier to the namespace which it belongs (i.e. the host namespace 51)) **in the first namespace** (Thatcher col. 11 lines 6-37 e.g. (i.e. the host namespace 51)), **the first external object and the second external object each having an associated central representation**

(Thatcher col. 8 lines 24-34, 45-61 e.g. The registry 58 has a variety of different parts. Two such parts are the namespaces table and the extensions table. All namespaces which participate with the user interface 57 are registered in the namespace table. As such, any number of different namespaces can participate. Using the namespace table of the registry 58, the user interface 57 is able to associate the interface modules with the corresponding namespaces; The extensions table of the registry 58 creates an association between namespaces; Examiner has interpreted the above disclosures such that each external object of each registered namespace in the extensions table has an associated central representation in the extensions table) **in a second namespace** (Thatcher col. 8 lines 24-34, 45-61 e.g. The extensions table of the registry 58 creates an association between namespaces)**;**

evaluating an association (Thatcher col. 11 lines 22-37 e.g. At decision block 89, it is determined whether any extensions are associated with the target 51A) **between the central representation of the second object and the second object in the one external namespace to identify a third external object** (Thatcher col. 8 lines 45-61 and col. 11 lines 6-37 e.g. when the user requests to expand the target 51A, at least a portion of the foreign namespace 54 will be displayed in the user interface 57 relative to the target 51A. Preferably, the foreign namespace 54 will be displayed subordinate to the target 51A either as a subordinate branch or in an adjacent window, thus creating a seamless aggregation of the two namespaces 51, 54; a getChildren call is made to a foreign namespace 54, and any corresponding children) **in a third namespace** (Thatcher col. 8 lines 45-61 e.g. the foreign namespace 54)**; and**

propagating the change to the third external object (Thatcher col. 11 lines 6-37 e.g. At decision block 89, it is determined whether any extensions are associated with the target 51A. If so, a loop is started at step 91 where for each extension listed in the registry 58, a getChildren call is made to a foreign namespace 54, and any corresponding children are added to the list in step 93. At step 90, all children in the list are then displayed by the user interface 57. Note that a target 51A can be both a container in the host namespace 51 and have extensions associated with it in a foreign namespace 54.).

Although Thatcher substantially teaches the claimed invention, Thatcher does not explicitly indicate **wherein the reference refers to a second external object in the first namespace**.

Fontana teaches the limitation by stating **wherein the reference** (Fontana col. 3 lines 15-18 and col. 4 line 54 – col. 5 line 3 e.g. A reference is a link or pointer to another object, and implies a relationship to that other object; Object One 33 and Object Two 34 are associated with one another by an association object 35. The term association, as used herein, means an object whose sole purpose is to describe the relationships between other objects. Such objects may or may not have their own properties or operations. If they do, they store information about the relationship between objects and not the objects themselves. Moreover, association object operations act upon the relationship or its state values and not on the state of the related objects) **refers to a second external object** (Fontana col. 3 lines 15-18 and col. 4 line 54 – col. 5 line 3 e.g. Object Two 34) **in the first namespace** (Fontana col. 5

lines 4-20 e.g. Referring now to FIG. 3, a block diagram to illustrate the use of a namespace as an association between different objects belonging to disparate models).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of namespace, at the time of the present invention, having the teachings of Thatcher and Fontana before him/her, to modify the namespace system of Thatcher, wherein the namespace system would include the teaching of Fontana because that would have allowed the namespace system to index the namespace to provide faster look up of names from the namespace thus enabling faster retrieval of associated objects (Fontana col. 2 lines 1-4).

13. With respect to claim 2,

Thatcher further discloses **wherein the indication of the change comprises a notice that the reference to the second external object was added** (Thatcher col. 11 lines 6-37 e.g. those children are added to the list; After any children in the host namespace 51 are added to the list, the method proceeds to step 88 where a getExtensions call is made to read the registry 58. The extensions table of the registry 58 is searched for the target 51A. At decision block 89, it is determined whether any extensions are associated with the target 51A**), modified** (Thatcher col. 6 lines 43-61 e.g. identifying when and where that value was last modified)**, or deleted.**

14. With respect to claim 3,

Thatcher further discloses **wherein identifying the central representation of the first external object in the second namespace comprises evaluating correlation information that correlates objects in the first namespace with objects in the second namespace** (Thatcher col. 2 lines 30-39 and col. 8 lines 45-61 e.g. A

target object in the first namespace is selected. If the target object has an association with the second namespace, the second namespace is accessed and at least a portion of the second namespace is determined. At least a portion of the second namespace is displayed in relation to the target object; when the user requests to expand the target 51A, at least a portion of the foreign namespaces 54 will be displayed in the user interface 57 relative to the target 51A.).

15. With respect to claim 4,

Thatcher further discloses **wherein the correlation information comprises a persistent data store** (Thatcher col. 8 lines 24-34, 45-61 e.g. Using the namespace table of the registry 58, the user interface 57 is able to associate the interface modules with the corresponding namespaces; The extensions table of the registry 58 creates an association between namespaces) **that associates central representation in the second namespace with external objects in other namespaces.**

16. With respect to claim 5,

Thatcher further discloses **wherein the association comprises a link** (Thatcher col. 2 lines 30-39 e.g. in relation to the target object) **between a unique identifier** (Thatcher col. 5 lines 47-53 e.g. the DN is a unique reference that identifies an object's distinct identity and location within a distributed directory) **for each central representation in the second namespace and unique identifies** (Thatcher col. 5 lines 47-53 e.g. holds the same set of objects with the same distinguished names ("DN"). the DN is a unique reference that identifies an object's distinct identity and location within a distributed directory) **for each external object.**

17. With respect to claim 6,

Thatcher further discloses **wherein the unique identifier comprises a globally** (Thatcher col. 5 lines 47-53 e.g. holds the same set of objects with the same distinguished names ("DN"). the DN is a unique reference that identifies an object's distinct identity and location within a distributed directory. For instance, the DN .CN=SteveM.OU=Denali.OU=Parks.O=NW.C=US isolates Steve M's User object to only one object in the entire distributed directory) **unique identifier.**

18. With respect to claim 7,

Thatcher further discloses **wherein the persistent data store comprises a table** (Thatcher col. 8 lines 24-34, 45-61 e.g. Using the namespace table of the registry 58, the user interface 57 is able to associate the interface modules with the corresponding namespaces; The extensions table of the registry 58 creates an association between namespaces)**.**

19. With respect to claim 9,

Thatcher further discloses **wherein each object comprises an entity** (Thatcher Fig. 1 e.g. User Object).

20. With respect to claim 10,

Thatcher further discloses **wherein each entity comprises a unique identifier that is immutable and a name** (Thatcher Fig. 1 e.g. User Object: Given Name, Last Name, Login Name)**.**

21. With respect to claim 11,

Thatcher further discloses **wherein the name is mutable** (Thatcher Fig. 1 e.g. User Object: Login Name).

22. Concerning claims 13 and 15-18,

The limitations therein have substantially the same scope as claims 1, 4-5 and 10-11. Therefore claims 13 and 15-18 are rejected for at least the same reasons as claims 1, 4-5 and 10-11.

23. With respect to claim 14,

Thatcher further discloses **wherein the data is formatted** (Thatcher col. 9 lines 42-67 e.g. A manifest is a text file in a particular format describing information in another file) **in accordance with the other object.**

24. With respect to claim 19,

Thatcher further discloses **wherein the central representation comprises an aggregation of information** (Thatcher col. 6 line 62 – col. 7 line 11 and col. 8 lines 45-61 e.g. propagate the change to all the replicas of the partition; aggregation of the two namespaces 51, 54) **from the first object and the other object.**

25. Concerning claim 21,

The limitations therein have substantially the same scope as claim 13 because claim 21 is a computer-readable storage medium claim for implementing those methods of claim 13. Therefore claim 21 is rejected for at least the same reasons as claim 13.

26. With respect to claim 22,

Thatcher further discloses **receiving an indication of a name change** (Thatcher col. 3 line 66 – col. 4 line 5, col. 4 lines 51-65, col. 6 line 62 – col. 7 line 11, col. 8 lines

36-44 and Fig. 1 e.g. the names of the various entries is a database constitute a namespace ... a namespace can include any collection of names; The object 20 has a variety of associated attributes, such as "Given Name", "Last Name", "Title", etc. Each associated attribute has zero or more Values; propagate the change to all the replicas of the partition; User Object: Login Name; For instance, if the interface modules are programmed in the JAVA language, the entry for "namespace class file" could be the JAVA path name of a class that implements that interface module) **of a referent in a reference field of a first object in a first namespace;**

Propagating the name change (Thatcher col. 6 line 62 – col. 7 line 11 and Fig. 1 e.g. propagate the change to all the replicas of the partition; User Object: Login Name) **to the other object.**

27. Concerning claims 23-25,

The limitations therein have substantially the same scope as claims 4, 6 and 10. Therefore claims 23-25 are rejected for at least the same reasons as claims 4, 6 and 10.

28. Concerning claims 26-29,

The limitations therein have substantially the same scope as claims 1, 3, 5-6 and 10 because claims 26-29 are computer-readable medium claims for implementing those methods of claims 1, 3, 5-6 and 10. Therefore claims 26-29 are rejected for at least the same reasons as claims 1, 3, 5-6 and 10.

29. Claims 8 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious by Thatcher in view of Fontana as applied to claims 1-7, 9-19 and 21-29 above, and further in view of Kumar et al (U.S. Patent 6,343,287 B1 hereinafter, "Kumar").

30. With respect to claims 8 and 20,

Although Thatcher and Fontana combination substantially teaches the claimed invention, they do not explicitly indicate the capability of **"wherein the second namespace comprises a metadirectory** (Kumar col. 5 lines 60-67 e.g. turns a profile service into a functional meta-directory enabling profile information to be distributed throughout a distributed computing system)**" of claim 8,**

"wherein the central representation and the other central representation reside in a metadirectory (Kumar col. 5 lines 60-67 e.g. turns a profile service into a functional meta-directory enabling profile information to be distributed throughout a distributed computing system)**" of claim 20,**

Kumar teaches the limitation as stated above.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of namespace, at the time of the present invention, having the teachings of Thatcher, Fontana and Kumar before him/her, to modify the namespace system of Thatcher and Fontana combination, wherein the method would include meta-directory as taught by Kumar because that would have allowed the system to provide a service architecture that provides directory integration together with an ability to add links to new external data store mechanism specified at runtime (Kumar col. 5 lines 1-7).

Response to Argument

31. Applicant's remarks and arguments presented on September 12, 2008 have been fully considered, however, they are directed to new limitations that have been addressed in the citation of the detailed office action as discussed above.

Conclusion

32. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SyLing Yen whose telephone number is 571-270-1306.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached at 571-272-3978. The fax and phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

SyLing Yen
Examiner
Art Unit 2166

SY
November 10, 2008

/Khanh B. Pham/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2166